



communications

Communication Systems-East

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Gregory B. Roberts
President and COO

March 11, 2009

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo
2427 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman LoBiondo:

I am writing to respectfully ask that you request funding to support the Senior Scout Communications Intelligence (COMINT) Capability Upgrade in the FY 10 National Defense Authorization Act and the FY 10 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill.

The USAF RC-130 Senior Scout system is a shelter-based, roll-on/roll-off, signal monitoring sensor package operated by the Utah Air National Guard 169th Intelligence squadron. Senior Scout was built to satisfy a requirement for a flexible collection capability adaptable to strategic and tactical Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISR) support, Counter Drug (CD) operations and Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW).

As part of the Senior Scout ongoing mission, there is an immediate need to add improved COMINT capability to detect and characterize new, modern, low-power radio signals at extended standoff ranges in the presence of interference. The current systems are not able to detect these specific signal sets, which limits intelligence collection capabilities. The effort I am asking you to support is to develop an enhanced COMINT capability in a single, small form factor, airborne-qualified unit for all three RC-130 Senior Scout shelters. The expanded functionality will include detection, characterization and carrier demodulation of modern, low-power UHF/VHF signals. The core technologies have been fully developed by L-3 and proven in government testing. This effort is to productize these technologies into a new operational package. The newly developed COMINT system will provide state of the art capabilities which allow the RC-130 to prosecute these new modern signals while also providing enhanced exploitation capability.

This upgrade satisfies the USAF requirements for the real-time collection and dissemination of critical intelligence to national and tactical units in support of a spectrum of military operations. The incorporation of the COMINT upgrade will make the unique collection capabilities of Senior Scout an even more effective intelligence resource as our Forces fight the Global War on Terrorism. Increased standoff range will significantly lower O&M costs and enhance survivability. This upgraded system will also improve combat effectiveness of other ISR platforms including RC-135's, U-28, U-2, Global Hawk, Predator and other special mission aircraft.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you ask the Armed Services and Appropriations Committee to provide \$4 million for Senior Scout COMINT (Communications Intelligence) Capability Upgrade in Procurement, Air Force, Line __, "C-130."

Thank you for your assistance with this important national security matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Roberts".